TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND, DELAWARE

Minutes of the December 11, 2015, Regular Council Meeting

Call to Order and Flag Salute at 2:30 p.m. by Mayor Langan

Council in Attendance: Gene Langan, Diane Tingle, Bill Weistling, Gardner Bunting, Roy Williams,

Richard Mais, Julie Lee

Staff in Attendance: Town Manager Burke, Town Clerk Poole, Public Works Supervisor Reed,

Building Official Schuchman, Police Chief Boyden

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mayor Langan and Town Manager Burke attended the Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company November budget meeting. The annual fee each property owner pays is \$53.00 and will stay the same for the coming 2016 year.

The 2015 Opinion Survey (freeboarding and roof height) results are in and were counted by Building Official Schuchman and Town Manager Burke on December 8th and again on December 11th. The results were as follows: 190 voted yes, 164 voted no, 8 were neutral and 1 was not counted as they voted yes and no. Approximately 44% of the town's residences responded to the survey.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

- **FY 2015 Audit (presentation) Sombar and Company Tom Sombar** presented the highlights of the FY 2015 Financial Review of the Town (budget on town's website www.fenwickisland.org Town Manager town budget). Mayor Langan stated if anyone has any questions, you can contact Town Manager Burke for an appointment to discuss.
- **Voter Information Rack Card Council Member Lee** the first meeting of the Ad *hoc* Election Committee was held on December 4th and Committee was able to put together an information document that describes voting in Fenwick Island. The card includes; who is eligible to vote, who is eligible to register, how to register and how to vote in Fenwick Island. Copies of the requested information were distributed to council members for review. Council Member Lee would like, if approved, to be able to add this information in the January newsletter. The next meeting will be held January 25th; the committee will put together this information to produce a rack card. Town Manager Burke stated there was money in the capital budget for this project with council approval. Voting information is currently on the website but the rack card can be posted as well.

Motion – Motion made for Council to **delay voting** until all members have a chance to review the document. The newsletter will be mailed after the January 22 Council meeting so the approved document can be included – Council Member Weistling

Second – Council Member Tingle

Discussion – None

Vote: (7-0)

• Comprehensive Plan Consultant – Town Manager Burke – asked Council to approve AECOM as the comprehensive planning consultant. After reviewing several resumes, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to award the work to AECOM. Mr. Gulbronson, a planner with AECOM, is very familiar with Fenwick. His firm completed the Master Drainage Study, the Sea Level Rise Study and the W. Dagsboro Street preliminary engineering. Town Manager Burke noted that \$5,000 was budgeted in FY16 for this project. Planning Commission Chairperson Winnie Lewis stated that the Commission is very dedicated to the project and has scheduled three (3) workshops in January, February and March. Public workshops will be scheduled over the summer months.

Motion – Motion made to hire AECOM to assist with the review and revision of the Comprehensive Plan - Council Member Mais

Second – Council Member Bunting

Discussion – Council Member Weistling stated this is a good choice for the town as they have many projects.

Vote - (7-0)

• **DE Commercial Affiliate Program Application and Resolution** – **Town Manager Burke** – At the last Business Development Committee Meeting, Diane Laird, State Coordinator, Delaware Main Street, Delaware Downtown/Delaware Economic Development Office attended and educated the Committee on resources available for the Commercial District and main street programs. It was decided at the meeting that Town Council would consider applying to the Delaware Commercial Affiliate Program. Town Manager Burke read a summary of the program. In Delaware, towns and communities statewide are invited to learn strategies for downtown revitalization and business development so that growth in their commercial district is "by choice" and not "by chance." "Affiliation" is for communities that are exploring downtown revitalization, that are preparing for Main Street designation and for those that may not desire or be eligible for Main Street designation."

A core feature of the service to Affiliates is access to training by state and national downtown development experts. Previously, this training was limited to fully designated Main Street communities. Now Affiliates have the opportunity to learn about best practices in the field of revitalization and to network with peers from around the state, particularly in the area of business development. This is a good first step for the business community, the Business Development Committee and the Town Council to get involved with the state and state resources to see what can be do as a group with community input to revitalize downtown. Currently there are twelve (12) vacant store fronts. Also, a new bank is coming shortly and maybe some other redevelopment in the pipeline. Town Manager Burke asked council to approve the application which includes Resolution # 73-2015. Resolution read into the record.

NOTICE

On December 11, 2015 the Fenwick Island Town Council

Passed the Following Resolution #73-2015

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE DEDO DOWNTOWN DELAWARE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT AFFILIATE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Delaware Economic Development Office has established the Downtown Delaware Commercial District Affiliate status to assist localities in developing public/private efforts to revitalize their downtown commercial areas, and

WHEREAS, interested Delaware cities, towns, and communities that are that are exploring downtown revitalization, those that may not be eligible for designation or those that do not wish to meet Main Street requirements may participate as an Affiliate, and

WHEREAS, Affiliate communities will have access to all Downtown Delaware training and limited on-site assistance, as resources permit, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Fenwick Island desires to participate in the DEDO Downtown Delaware Commercial District Affiliate Program and has completed the necessary application.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF FENWICK ISLAND

- SECTION 1. That the Town of Fenwick Island applies for selection to participate in the DEDO Downtown Delaware Commercial District Affiliate Program with the specific goal of economically revitalizing the designated downtown district using the Main Street Approach as a model, a model which values the integrity and physical character of the community;
- SECTION 2. The Town of Fenwick Island recognizes that the Main Street model is considered one of many economic and community development tools used by a locality and that successful downtown revitalization requires an on-going commitment, continuous attention and a full public-private partnership. Thus the Town/City has full intent to actively support and implement the initiatives developed as a result of Commercial District Affiliate status, resources permitting.
- SECTION 3. The Town of Fenwick Island understands that participation as an DEDO Downtown Delaware Commercial District Affiliate Program does not guarantee selection as a Designated Main Street Community, and that the Town/City will be eligible to receive Affiliate Community services from Downtown Delaware as long as the requirements stated in the Program Guidelines are met.

ADOPTED THIS 11 th day of December, 2015			
Attest:			
Linda M. Poole, Town Clerk	Gene Langan, President of Council		
	Diane B. Tinale. Council Secretary		

I, Diane B. Tingle, Secretary of the Town Council, of the Town of Fenwick Island, Delaware, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution passed by the President and Council at a meeting on April 24, 2015, at which a quorum was present and voting throughout and the same is still in force and effect.

Date	Diane B. Tingle, Council Secretary

Motion – Motion made to submit the Delaware Commercial District Affiliate Application for Community Branding – Council Member Mais

Second – Council Member Bunting

Discussion – None

Vote – (6-0) – Council Member Weistling abstained due to lack of time to review documents.

• East Coast opposition to Offshore Oil & Gas Drilling – Mary Ellen Langan, Chair of Environmental Committee – In January, 2015 a draft proposal on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) five-year plan for oil and gas development in the United States was published. The proposed plan, which covers all potential leasing from 2017 – 2022, would open large swaths of the Atlantic Ocean to industrial offshore drilling for the first time in U.S. history. At the same time, the federal government is reviewing applications for companies to use seismic air guns to search for oil and gas deposits deep below the ocean floor in an area twice the size of California, stretching from Delaware to Florida.

These proposals ignore mounting East Coast opposition, past disasters, and threats to economics and marine life, putting the entire Atlantic coast at risk – all for less than 4 percent of the nation's total oil and natural gas reserves. Offshore drilling could destroy the very fabric of coastal communities, state and local economies, and critical marine habitats for decades to come, while also contributing to global climate change. This will be threats to the economy and coastal way of life and danger to human health and the environment.

Council Member Tingle stated that after reading the information, the economically recoverable resources off the East Coast from Maine to Florida, the oil would last for less than five months, and the gas would last less than 10 months. Council Member Williams stated that he was also against any offshore drilling.

Resolutions have been signed by the Town of Ocean City and the City of Lewes.

Mary Ellen Langan said she would arrange for a speaker to address Town Council in reference to offshore oil and gas drilling at the next monthly Council meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion – Motion made to approve the Minutes of December 11, 2015 - Council Member Bunting **Second** – Council Member Mais **Discussion** – None Vote – **(7-0)**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Council Member Bunting reported: The monthly report is a summary of all account balances through **November 30, 2015** and other pertinent financial information since the prior month's Town Council meeting.

Cash Balance

- Beginning cash balance 11/1/2015 \$2,637,535.76
- Ending cash balance 11/30/2015 \$2,633,948.88

FY 2016 Operating Budget (8/1/2015 – 11/30/2015)

- 71.17% of Budgeted Income
- 37.08% of Budgeted Expenses

Realty Transfer Tax (1.5% local tax)

- Tax collected in November \$7,425.00
- Total taxes collected in FY 16 \$37,240.08

Outstanding Property Taxes

• \$17,690.59

Revenue Highlights

- 99.93% of real estate property tax budget (collected \$4,760.12 in Nov.)
- 66.5% of rental receipt tax budget (collected \$112,207.59 in Nov.)
- 72.84% of parking violations budget (collected \$200.00 in Nov.)

Municipal Street Aid Report

- \$1,176.24 in expenses (Delmarva Power)
- \$80.70 in expense (street repairs)

MSA Balance \$47,836.93

Dedicated Street Fund Report

• There were no expenses. Deposits 10% from RTT \$2,120.21

DSF Balance \$55,465.31

Parks and Recreation Fund Report

• \$165.00 in expenses. Deposits \$150 Brick sale; 5% from RTT \$1,860.11

Parks & Rec Balance \$2,443.04

Motion – Motion made to accept the Treasurer's Report as read – Council Member Bunting

Second – Council Member Tingle

Discussion – Council Member Weistling abstained, stated not enough time to review.

Treasurer's Report accepted by Council.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Projects / Updates

- Department supervisors have commenced FY16 Capital Improvement Plan purchases. PW is currently repairing lifeguard stands for the 2016 summer season.
- The Town Hall outside trim project was completed by public works.
- Management continues to improve and update information on the Town website. For example, the
 public can now efficiently search for committee information under the generalcode.com section of the
 website.
- State funding was approved (42, 585, 50% / Town of Fenwick Island match); however due to the winter season the work has been postponed until spring.
- Management followed up with DNREC and will be meeting with Check Williams in the future to discuss details of hydrographic surveying and canal dredging.
- The W. Dagsboro drainage project is almost complete. The project consisted of 2.5" of new paving and installation of new drainage pipe.
- Management is moving forward on the Town Hall lobby project that consists of a new safety glass window and removing the Admin. Clerk lobby door.
- Delmarva Power will be performing utility upgrades on Bunting Avenue and pole renovations along Route 1 over the next few weeks.

Grant Applications (approved and pending)

- 2015 DNREC Recycling Grant (approved for \$3,000, 100% State of DE)
 - O DNREC approved the grant and purchases have commenced. The recycling rack card should be completed over the winter months.
- 2015 American Lung Association Grant (approved \$1,389, 100% State of DE)
- The grant was approved by the ALA. Grant purchases will commence in early 2016.
- 2015 DNREC DTF Grant (pending \$43,585, 50% Town of Fenwick Island match)
 - O DNREC submitted a grant award letter dated December 2. Town management is moving forward with the second phase of the F.I. Community Park improvement project. The project should be completed by May 1.
- 2015 Delaware Bicycle Council Grant (pending, match TBD)
 - O Town management submitted a grant application to the DE Bicycle Council to improve local infrastructure and increase education between motorists and bicycles. Grant applications will be reviewed by December 15.

Grant Award letter entered into the record:

Letter from the State of Delaware, Architectural Accessibility Board: Mr. Merritt Burke, IV, Town Manager 800 Coastal Highway Fenwick Island, DE 19944

RE: Playground Expansion Case No. 15153

Dear Mr. Burke:

State of Delaware's Architectural Accessibility Board (AAB) met on Thursday, December 10, 2015, at which time your submission for the above referenced project was reviewed. Based on your plans and drawings your submission was unanimously approved.

The AAB's review and approval is not intended to assume any responsibility or liability for this project. Please know that there may be items pertaining to various codes, or other regulations, that may not have been addressed. You, however, are responsible for ensuring full compliance with all applicable accessibility codes, standards and/or other requirements. You are advised that potential changes to this project's design may have a direct effect on accessibility, and this should be considered prior to any changes or revisions to these drawings. Likewise, errors could also occur when the actual construction deviates from the approved design.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (302) 739-5644.

Very truly yours, Jennifer Lieber Chief Administrator, AAB

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- **Building Official** The October and November monthly reports were included in the Council meeting packet.
- **Public Works** The October and November monthly reports were included in the Council meeting packet. The F.I. Community Park was decorated for the community holiday party.
- **Beach Patrol** No report until March.
- **Police Department** The October and November monthly reports were included in the Council meeting packet. Cpl. Lowe wanted to extend a "Thank You so much" to Lori Martin and the participants of the Turkey Trot for their gracious donation.

TOWN COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Member Weistling – Proposed Second Reading – Chapter 160 - Zoning, §160-2B Definition and §160-5C – Area Regulations: entered into record.

APPROVED FIRST READING – OCTOBER 23, 2015 PROPOSED SECOND READING – DECEMBER 11, 2015

CHAPTER 160 – ZONING

§ 160-2. Definitions and word use.

Existing:

B. For the purpose of this chapter, certain terms and words are defined as follows:

MOTEL/HOTEL – A building containing <u>16 or more sleeping rooms</u> occupied by transient persons as guests for compensation on a daily basis. Each motel/hotel building shall include an on-site management and reception area, daily housekeeping services, and a lighted exterior sign identifying the name of the motel/hotel and the vacancy/no vacancy status. Sleeping rooms may be offered individually or in combination in suites.

Proposed:

B. For the purpose of this chapter, certain terms and words are defined as follows:

MOTEL/HOTEL – A building containing *no less than 16 nor more than 65* sleeping rooms occupied by transient persons as guests for compensation on a daily basis. Each motel/hotel building shall include an on-site management and reception area, daily housekeeping services, and a lighted exterior sign identifying the name of the motel/hotel and the vacancy/no vacancy status. Sleeping rooms may be offered individually or in combination in suites.

§ 160-5C. Area Regulations.

Existing:

(5) Each motel/hotel permitted to be erected or altered hereafter shall occupy a lot(s) providing a minimum of **1,000** square feet of land area for each sleeping room therein including sleeping rooms in any apartment included in the motel/hotel building.

Proposed:

(5) Each motel/hotel permitted to be erected or altered hereafter shall occupy a lot(s) providing a minimum of <u>1,000</u> square feet of land area for each sleeping room therein including sleeping rooms in any apartment included in the motel/hotel building. <u>Each motel/hotel use existing as of the date of the adoption of this amendment on December 11, 2015 shall occupy a lot(s) providing a minimum of 600 square feet of land area for each sleeping room, not to exceed a</u>

total of 65 sleeping rooms, including rooms in any apartment included in the hotel/motel building.

Council Member Weistling made an amendment the verbiage of Proposed (5) based recommendation from the Town's attorney. The last sentence of the particular section, per my amendment would read, "

Each motel/hotel use existing as of the date of the adoption of this amendment on December 11, 2015 shall occupy a lot(s) providing a minimum of 600 square feet of land area for each sleeping room, not to exceed a total of 65 sleeping rooms, including rooms in any apartment included in the hotel/motel building.

Council Member Weistling stated these changes were made to clarify the meaning and effect of the ordinance. We had reversed the hotel/motel in one section and motel/hotel in another and our attorney recommended to add the word "use" as it's used extensively in our residential and commercial zoning section. Also we modified the wording in the adoption of this date so there would be an actual be a record date, when this motion is approved for a second reading.

Motion – Motion made for Council to approve the amended version - Second Reading of Chapter 160 – Zoning, §160-2 Definition and §160-5C – Area Regulations – Council Member Weistling **Second** – Council Member Tingle

Discussion – Council Member Weistling clarified that the first part of §160-2, Definitions and word use stays the same. The only amended wording is in § 160-5C Area Regulations, the last sentence. Council member Lee asked, "Has any member of the Council, including the Mayor, received any legal opinion, from the Town's Solicitor concerning legal challenges concerning these proposed ordinances changes. Council Member Weistling stated the conversation that we have had with the attorney, which I've stated all along is that anyone of these motion can be legally challenged. The Town Attorney feels that the wording we have in our ordinance, is appropriate. She also addressed the survey, I'll let the Building Official Schuchman address that. Building Official Schuchman stated, "Town Manager Burke and I used the Sussex County tax map on the wall in my office and the Artesian Water maps to measure the distance for those properties within 100 feet of the Sands, the Seaside Inn and the Fenwick Islander. We also conducted physical field measurements in some of the locations to verify the distance. Pursuant to Chapter 305 of DE Title 22, the results of the study showed that the petition failed to meet the statue of 20%. Council Member Williams added, we have had two letters from attorneys here in town, both stating that this should be setup in a separate zone for the hotel/motel, that this definitely could be challenged. Vote: Council Members were polled: R. Mais, G. Bunting, G. Langan, B. Weistling, D. Tingle – Aye R. Williams, J. Lee – No - Motion Second Reading passed (5-2)

Council Member Weistling – Proposed Ordinance to Establish a Moratorium upon the issuance of any permit, License or other approval for or involving new motel/hotel uses in the Town of Fenwick Island: entered into record.

1AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A MORATORIUM UPON THE ISSUANCE OF ANY PERMIT, LICENSE OR OTHER APPROVAL FOR OR INVOLVING NEW MOTEL/HOTEL USES IN THE TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND.

WHEREAS, the Town of Fenwick Island currently allows motels/hotels as a permitted use in the Commercial Zone; and

WHEREAS, whether or not an expansion of the total number of motel/hotel uses in the Town, above and beyond the parcels already devoted to motel/hotel uses, is in the best interest of the Town has recently been the subject of much debate among the Town Council members, as well as the citizens of and property owners in the Town; and

WHEREAS, whether or not to expand the total number of motel/hotel uses in the Town has been a topic of discussion in years past as well, including, but not necessarily limited to, the 2006 to 2007 time frame when the Town adopted its Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town will soon begin the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, as required by Title 22 of the Delaware Code, and the expansion of motel/hotel uses in the Town will be an important topic of discussion during said update process; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan update process must be completed by June, 2017, in order for the Town to satisfy certain State-mandated deadlines, and will consist of multiple public meetings and/or hearings, as well as hiring a professional consultant to study the issue of motel/hotel uses and other land use planning issues with which the Town is faced; and

WHEREAS, in light of the ongoing debate about whether to expand the total number of motel/hotel uses in the Town and because the Comprehensive Plan update process may result in comprehensive and/or significant changes to the permitted land uses within the Commercial Zone, the Town Council deems it to be in the best interest of the Town to maintain the status quo of existing motel/hotel uses during the Comprehensive Plan update process; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that maintaining the status quo of existing motel/hotel uses by placing a moratorium upon the issuance of any permit, license or other approval for or involving new motel/hotel uses in the Town for a period of two (2) years is the minimum time period necessary for the Town to complete the Comprehensive Plan update process and the period of plan implementation that often follows said process.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Fenwick Island, in session met, a quorum pertaining at all times thereto, that:

Section 1. A moratorium upon the issuance of any permit, license or other approval for or involving new motel/hotel uses in the Town is hereby imposed for a period of two (2) years after the date of adoption of this Ordinance, unless extended, modified, or terminated in accordance with this Ordinance. During the period of said moratorium, the Town's Building Official/Code Enforcement Official, as well as all other Town staff and boards, committees or commissions, shall not grant any

approvals which would have, as the result, the establishment or development of any new motel/hotel uses in the Town.

- Section 2. This moratorium shall not apply to existing motel/hotel uses in Town. The parcels in Town already devoted to motel/hotel uses, as of the adoption of this Ordinance, may continue to be used for a motel/hotel use and the owners/operators thereof may maintain, remodel, renovate, reconstruct and/or rebuild the structures located on said parcels as they deem necessary and appropriate for the furtherance of their motel/hotel businesses, provided all necessary permits and approvals from the Town and/or any other applicable governing agency are obtained.
- Section 3. This Ordinance may be extended, modified, or terminated at any time by a majority vote of all members of the Town Council. Without action by the Town Council to terminate this moratorium early or to further extend this moratorium, the moratorium hereby imposed shall automatically dissolve two (2) years from the effective date of this Ordinance.
- Section 4. If any clause, section or other part or application of this Ordinance shall be held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, such unconstitutional or invalid part or application shall be considered eliminated and so not affecting the validity of the remaining portions or application remaining in full force and effect.

This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption

	Section 5.	This Ordinance shall t	become effective	apon ns adopno)II.	
PASSE	ED ON FIRST	READING THIS	DAY OF		, 2015.	
		OND READING, AFTE		RING HELD	ON	, THIS
forego held o	ing is a true a	retary of the Town Cournd correct copy of an C, 2016, at which and effect.	rdinance passed l	by the Town Co	ouncil at its Regular	r Meeting
	Diane Tingle,	, Secretary				

Motion: This is a first reading if Council decides to go forward with the Moratorium. This ordinance is to establish a moratorium upon the issuance of any permit, license or other approval for or involving new motel/hotel uses in the Town of Fenwick Island. — Council Member Weistling Second: Council Member Tingle

Discussion: Council Member Lee stated this is very beneficial to the Town. Council Member Weistling stated that a Public Hearing will be scheduled before the January Council Meeting.

Vote: (7-0) Motion First Reading passed.

Section 5

- **Beach Committee** The 12th Fenwick Freeze will be held on January 1st at 10:30 a.m. on Bayard Street. Early registration \$20.00 (per person), \$25.00 (per person) day of the event.
- **Environmental Committee** The Committee met on December 3rd. The pine trees in Town have been tested and are diseased and need to be removed, not only taken down but removed from the property and it still will spread once the tree has been removed. The Committee is in the process of inviting a DE Forestry rep. to speak on diseased pine trees at the January 22nd Town Council meeting. The next meeting will be January 14th at 2:30 p.m.
- **Technology Committee** The Committee has invited the State of Delaware Government Information Center to attend the January Committee meeting to discuss a design of the current website.
- **Business Development Committee** The next meeting will be January 5th at 2:00 p.m.
- Ad *hoc* Election Committee The next meeting will be January 25th at 9:30 a.m.
- **Planning Commission** None
- **Old Business** None
- **New Business** None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Ben Waide 12 W. Dagsboro St. Is it my understanding that the Town received a clean report from the Auditor. Mayor Langan responded, yes. Mr. Waide stated that a yes response means that the auditing firm has found that the town only uses, acceptable and legal accounting procedures, and in all of their financial aspects, they abide by those rules. Mayor Langan stated that that is significant.
- Lynn Andrews 1205 N. Schulz Rd. Re: survey, were any residents involved in the counting? The Mayor stated that Town Manager and Building Official Schuchman counted the opinion surveys.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Mayor Langan announced the following upcoming meetings and events as follows:

a.	Jan 05	9:30 a.m.	Charter and Ordinance Committee Meeting
b.	Jan 05	2:00 p.m.	Business Development Committee Meeting
c.	Jan 12	2:30 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
d.	Jan 14	2:30 p.m.	Environmental Committee Meeting
e.	Jan 22	3:00 p.m.	Public Hearing
f.	Jan 22	3:30 p.m.	Regular Council Meeting
g.	Jan 25	9:30 a.m.	At hoc Election Committee Meeting

Motion to Adjourn – Council Member Bunting Second – Council Member Tingle Discussion – None Vote – (7-0)

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

*Transcribed by Linda Poole, Town Clerk

Approved 1.22.2016

for Council Member Diane Tingle, Secretary